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**MAYOR EMANUEL ATTENDS ANNUAL CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR ASSEMBLY**

*Celebrating the Year of the Horse*

Today, Mayor Rahm Emanuel visited Robert Healy Elementary School and attended the annual Chinese Lunar New Year school assembly.

"I always enjoy the opportunity to share in the Chinese Lunar New Year festivities," said Mayor Emanuel. "The vibrancy of the New Year festivities and Chinatown community are why Chicago will next year make the Lunar New Year a city-wide celebration, serving as a wonderful way to bring together Chicagoans from across the city while celebrating the diversity of our communities."

To celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year and bring in the year of the Horse, students performed dances, songs, and a Kung Fu routine. This year, the Chinese Lunar New Year was on Friday, January 31st.

"I am extremely pleased to celebrate with the students, parents and educators at Healy Elementary School," said Alderman James Balcer of the 11th Ward. "We welcome this year's Lunar Celebration of the year of the Horse. We appreciate and honor our Chinatown community and all those celebrating across the City."

Robert Healy Elementary School Principal Alfonso Carmona, Alderman James Balcer, Alderman Danny Solis, State Representative Eddie Acevedo, and State Senator Tony Munoz joined Mayor Emanuel for the assembly.

"I offer my best wishes to the Chicago Chinatown community as they celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year," said Alderman Solis. "I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Chinatown community for their exceptional partnership and support of my work as the

Alderman of the 25th Ward for the past 18 years. I look forward to continuing this relationship to foster the growth and vitality of Chicago's Chinatown."

Robert Healy Elementary School is in the Bridgeport neighborhood. It is a school known for its excellence in the arts, and promotes the arts through ongoing partnerships with the Chinese American Service League, the Children's Inner City Education Fund, and Communities in Schools.

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**Photo Credit 1 -3:** Mayor Emanuel joins community members and students from Robert Healy Elementary School to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year and bring in the year of the Horse.

**Photo Caption:** Brooke Collins // City of Chicago